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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending
7 July 1948

Vol. III No.26

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● Eptakhorion: a captured key town on approach to guerilla inner defenses.

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GREECE

"Operation Crown" nears critical stage: The Greek Army's offensive against the guerrilla stronghold in the Grammos Mountains is approaching a critical stage. Guerrilla resistance continues as strong as ever, and the Markos forces have vigorously counterattacked in the Grammos area itself and have conducted diversionary raids elsewhere. Nevertheless, the Greek Army, by maintaining steady pressure on all fronts, has tightened its net everywhere except in the southwest sector along the Albanian border and has succeeded in capturing the key town of Eptakhorion. What is more, the approximately 7,500 guerrillas in the Grammos area now appear to have been completely committed to line, and there is evidence that the pressure of air bombardment, artillery fire, and infantry attack has begun to tell on their morale. It is therefore possible that the Greek Army's seizure of Eptakhorion, which guarded the approach to the guerrilla final line of resistance in the cove of the Grammos range, will force the guerrillas to withdraw rapidly to a shorter line of inner defenses and eventually into Albania.

TURKEY

The new oilfield: Petroleum production at Ramandag appears to be most promising, according to a recent report from the responsible American drilling expert in the area. Production at both wells has increased after acidization and should reach 1,000 barrels a day from each. This expert believes that an area of about 350 square miles has been proven, and that excellent use may be made of asphalt from this source to surface Turkey's new highways. While it is much too early to decide whether or not Turkey will eventually be able to produce all (or more than all) of its own needs for petroleum products, the Turks are most fortunate in having apparently found large supplies of asphalt at almost exactly the same time as they have set in motion ambitious plans for the construction of a completely new and modern network of roads.

Maximos to be represented at Moscow church celebration: Patriarch Maximos has said he will send representatives to Moscow to attend celebrations in July of the 500th anniversary of the independence of the

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Russian Orthodox Church. It is not yet certain who will go to Moscow to represent the Patriarch, who (even if he felt it incumbent upon him) is too ill to go himself. The Patriarch's delegates will have a very difficult task, for they will probably be instructed to attend the ceremonies only and to refuse to participate in any discussions about matters either spiritual or temporal not directly connected with the anniversary celebrations. Other delegates from Greek Orthodox Churches in the Near and Middle East are likely to be less hesitant, and will thus offer an excellent opportunity to Patriarch Alexei of the Russian Church to extend his own influence in that area.

PALESTINE

Renewed fighting expected: Arab-Jewish hostilities in Palestine are expected to break out shortly unless UN Mediator Bernadotte unexpectedly succeeds in obtaining a last-minute continuation of the truce which ends 9 July. The Jewish forces will probably attempt to consolidate their positions in the coastal area and in Galilee, and to gain control of Jerusalem. The Arabs will probably try to break the military stalemate which had developed prior to the truce. They will attempt to reimpose their blockade of Jerusalem by blocking the Tel Aviv supply route, and to isolate Tel Aviv from the hinterland through concerted advances by the Egyptian, Transjordan, and Iraqi Armies. The Syrian Army will probably launch a limited offensive in northeastern Galilee. The success of the Arab campaign is problematical in view of acute ammunition shortages. If the Arabs are unable to force political concessions from Israel within the next two months, they will have to trim the scope of their military activities and revert to guerrilla tactics as their long-term military policy.

ARAB STATES

The Dhahran-Riyadh meetings: The rival Saudi and Hashimite dynasties have at long last been brought together in the flesh if not in the spirit. on 26 June King Abdullah of Transjordan dined with Crown Prince Saud at Dhahran Air Base, and a few days later he visited Ibn Saud at Riyadh. The principal result of the meetings was an announcement that the two kings had agreed to "wipe out the past" and were united in their determination never to accept a Jewish state in Palestine. Ibn Saud, moreover, promised that Saudi troops would take a more active part in Palestine if a peaceful solution acceptable to the Arabs did not materialize.

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Such statements conform to the Arab popular demand for unity which in large measure brought about the meetings, but it is still too early to determine how genuine and sweeping a reconciliation has taken place between the two monarchs. Long-standing grievances are not easily laid aside in the Arab world, and the mutual suspicions which the two royal families have harbored over the years could scarcely have been dispelled by one conference. It is not known whether the sore point of conflicting boundary claims was touched upon at either meeting. Moreover, Prince Saud and Abdullah, in alluding to their respective US and British ties at the Dhahran meeting, sounded suspiciously as though they were trying to impress each other with the importance of their outside friendships. The monarchs did meet, however, and the subsequent communique was a strong one. The meetings thus represent a significant step forward in the Arab attempt to achieve unity and to work out a common course of action in Palestine.

IRAN

Soviet pressure unsuccessful: Recent Soviet diplomatic and subversive pressures have only strengthened Iran's sense of membership in the Western camp. A succession of Soviet-engineered border incidents has not only failed to achieve any local success but also has hampered Soviet efforts to sway the Iranian Government; the publicity given them by Iran has both irritated the USSR and heightened anti-Soviet feeling within Iran. When the Soviet Ambassador announced heavily to Prime Minister Hajir that all outstanding difference between Iran and the USSR could be settled as soon as Iran dropped its "inadmissible" alignment with the US, Hajir warmly insisted on the sovereign rights of his government, denied allegations of anti-Soviet airfield construction in Iran, and finally stated bluntly that Iran would support the Western bloc in the event of war. Iran's old tendency toward vacillation is still evident, however, and Hajir is seeking the advice of the US on the wisdom of leaving "the door half-open" to the USSR.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

The Pathanistan issue revived: Antagonism between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the issue of Pathanistan (a proposed independent state for Moslem Pathan tribesmen to be carved out of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province) has flared up again. The latest incident is the recent arrest in Pakistan of Chaffar Khan, one of the leading advocates of the "Pathanistan within Pakistan" movement. The arrest has been followed by charges, counter charges, and intrigue on the part of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The

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Afghan Government has, in effect, reiterated its determination to support the establishment of an independent Pathan state. The Indian press has seized on Chaffar Khan's arrest as indicative of "dictatorial rule" in Pakistan. Pakistani patriots, in turn, claim that Afghanistan and India are conniving to create unrest in Pakistan. Only India would benefit from a continuing deterioration in Afghan-Pakistan relations. Land-locked Afghanistan needs economic cooperation from Pakistan, which controls the movement of goods into the country, and Pakistan cannot afford to alienate the Pathan tribesmen, whose help would be essential in the event of war with India.

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